

June 24, 2008

The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation is in the process of scoping for the proposed Bannock Divide Salvage Timber Sale. The purpose of the scoping is to identify issues and concerns relevant to the proposed action for the development of environmental documents and their alternatives.

This project was previously scoped as the Bannock Pass Post and Rail Timber Permits and the Divide Creek Salvage Timber Permit. Due to the present economics of the lumber market and additional infestations of Mountain Pine beetle, these timber permits have been combined and expanded into the proposed Bannock Divide Salvage Timber Sale.

The proposed project area is located within portions of the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, School Trust Lands in Section 16, Township 12 South, Range 14 West in Beaverhead County. This area is situated along the southern Montana and Idaho border, approximately 2.5 air miles southwest of Bannock Pass. The surrounding ownership is USFS and BLM.

The proposed project would harvest lodgepole pine sawlog timber and post and rail material from approximately 88 acres. The proposed harvest would utilize tractor logging and remove approximately 350 thousand board feet of post and rail material, and 350 thousand board feet of sawlog material. Approximately 3,475 feet of minimum standard, temporary new road would be needed to access the harvest area. The proposed salvage harvest would be scheduled for fall of 2008.

The specific project objectives are to provide revenue to the school trust, recover value from damaged timber and improve the health and productivity of the forest stands through removal of dead, dying, infected and overstocked timber.

If you would like to provide input or if you have some specific concerns regarding this harvest proposal, please contact me at the Dillon address above by July 20, 2008.

Sincerely,

Chuck Barone
Dillon Unit Forester

ATTACHMENT A

Proposed Bannock Divide Timber Sale
Section 16-T12S-R14W, Beaverhead County

FS Road 012

Access Road

New Construction

Jackleg Fence

Harvest Unit

N

USFS

BLM

BLM

Idaho

Idaho

Sec. 16-T12S-R14W

FOREST
USFS
Idaho

